

March 27, 2022

Lesson 10 — 1 John 2:1-17

- John has listed three tests that give proof to genuine faith: ***the moral test, the doctrinal test, and the relational test.***
- In this lesson, we will look at the ***relational test***. John is about to tell us that our obedience can be seen in the way we relate to one another.
 - ***1 John 2:7-8*** | *Beloved, I am not writing a new commandment to you, but an old commandment which you have had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. 8 On the other hand, I am writing a new commandment to you, which is true in Him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true Light is already shining.*

- **1 John 2:9-11** — *Whoever says he is in the Light and hates his brother is still in darkness. 10 Whoever loves his brother abides in the Light, and in him there is no cause for stumbling. 11 But whoever hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eye.*
- John begins with a negative as he did in v. 6:
 - *If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth...*
- John tells them that if they claim to be in the Light and we hate others in the Body of Christ, we lie and do not practice the truth.
 - **Luke 14:26** — *If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.*

- In **verse 10**, John is ready to tell us what God means by ‘in the Light’. The relational test that determines if we are ‘in the light’ is our loving one another with the love of God.
- The relational test of the genuineness of our obedience is our loving one another the way Jesus loves us.
- Was this a ‘new command’ or an ‘old command’?
 - **John 13: 34-35** — *A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another*
- This command was new in the sense that Jesus was distilling two Old Testament commands as one.
- In **Matthew 22:37-40**, Jesus responds to the question, *What is the great commandment in the Law?*

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- *You shall love the lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' 38 This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets?*